

Dear SIC Members and Supporters:

This issue of *SIC Clips & Quips* (Volume 4, Issue 8) is sent to share information of special interest to our state's School Improvement Councils.

SIC Elections and Planning for the Upcoming School Year – A good many local SICs have already held their elections for SIC members for the 2012-13 school year. The summer months can be a great time for these Councils to meet and plan their work for the year ahead. For those SICs that will be holding their member elections in the early Fall (remember, SIC elections must be conducted before **October 15** in accordance with state law), the summer offers a wonderful opportunity to canvass your school community for potential new members to add to your Council. Keep in mind that parents and teachers (and in the case of high schools, students) are to be *elected* members of the SIC, selected by their peers; non-parent community members are to be *appointed* to the SIC by the principal. Have your nominees provide some brief biographical information on themselves so that your school community can know a bit about whom they're voting, and don't forget to advertise your SIC election in your school newsletter, on the school website and even on the school's marquee. Should you have any questions about your SIC election or need some advice on how best to hold them, don't hesitate to contact the SC-SIC office at **1-800-868-2232**.

SC Education Policy Fellowship Program Accepting New Applicants – The SC Education Policy Fellowship Program (SC-EPFP) is a 10-month professional development program for emerging leaders in education and related fields designed to work toward the implementation of sound education policy and practice in South Carolina. Education is important to everyone and leaders representing a variety of organizations, agencies and business are encouraged to participate in this unique and valuable program. SC-EPFP, affiliated with the Education Policy Fellowship Program of the Institute for Educational Leadership in Washington, DC, and coordinated by SC-SIC, is now accepting applicants for Fellows for the 2012-13 academic year. SC-EPFP is dedicated to developing an influential cadre of informed, broad-minded and well-networked leaders representing all stakeholder groups who will take action to improve the future of our state through education advocacy, improvement and reform. If you are interested in participating in this nationally-recognized program, or know someone who might be, you can find more about SC-EPFP – including application materials, tuition and travel costs, and other information – online at <http://sic.sc.gov/sceducationpolicyfellowshipprogram/Pages/index.aspx>.

Have You Uploaded Your 2012 SIC Report to the Parents? – All SICs statewide should have already issued their annual *SIC Reports to the Parents* by **April 30** as required by South Carolina statute. In addition to producing hard copies of these *Reports* for the school community, SC-SIC asks all local Councils to post an electronic version of their *Reports* on their school websites and to post electronic copies of their *Reports* directly with the SC-SIC office via a new online upload tool on the "SC-SIC Member Network." SIC Chairs and principals are asked to check the "Member Network" to see if their *Reports* have been posted online (the posting deadline was **June 1**). If not, they're asked to accomplish this as soon as possible. Have questions or need assistance? Contact SC-SIC Public Information Director Claudia Wolverton at wolverto@mailbox.sc.edu.

Free Parent Engagement Webinar Available Online – *Education Week*, a national newspaper covering K-12 education, recently produced a webinar entitled "Engaging Parents in Schools and Student Learning," a one-hour presentation on recent developments in research and practice. Dr. Karen Mapp, Lecturer at the Harvard Graduate School of Education, provides an overview of the most current research demonstrating the importance of quality family and community engagement in schools, and describes the characteristics of effective engagement initiatives. Dr. Steve Sheldon, Director of Research for the National Network of Partnership schools at Johns Hopkins University, focuses on schools that have developed successful and innovative programs based on the concepts outlined by Dr. Mapp. This free

webinar will be available on demand for the next six months at www.edweek.org/go/webinar/EngagingParents. It's a great resource, especially for incoming SIC members.

Remember, *SIC Clips & Quips* is sent to all SIC members and supporters who share their email addresses with us. Please feel free to print this information and share it with fellow SIC members who may not have received it. We are here to help you, so please contact us any time!

TFH

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"Civic Engagement in Public Education"

